

## BOOKHAM AND DISTRICT u3a NEWSLETTER



15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear u3a Members

Summer seems to have arrived at last, so I hope you are taking advantage of the longer days. As those of you who joined our June 1<sup>st</sup> monthly meeting will know, I was on a week's holiday which had been postponed a year from 2020 and had to be taken over school half term to match my sister-in law's teaching commitments. Anyway, I am now back in the 'driving seat' and the first thing I must share with you relates to Senior Moments.

In the early days of the pandemic, we moved our quarterly publication to an electronic version which could be accessed on the Bookham u3a website. We had suspended our monthly meetings in the Old Barn Hall and so the in-person distribution method was not possible and posting to all would be prohibitively expensive. We did however complete a small print run for posting to those members who did not have digital access. Recently your Committee has looked at the longer term future of Senior Moments as we recover from the worst of the COVID-19 restrictions. We have decided to continue with the electronic version with just a small print run for those without digital access. I suspect that some of you may be unhappy with this decision and would prefer a hard copy in your hands which you can read wherever you wish. You tolerated the electronic version as an expedient solution in difficult times but were looking forward to a return to what we had before. Indeed, I might sympathise with that view, but your Committee had to take a hard decision based on the following considerations:

- Angie Squires has performed a marvellous distribution role for the past 14 years but she has decided that now is the time to retire gracefully
- Maurice Baker has kindly agreed to drop into a distribution role, but only for those who do not have digital access
- Whilst collected paper copies cost about £4 in total per year, posting them to your home addresses costs about £8 in total per year which is a significant proportion of the £14 annual subscription
- Capitation to the Third Age Trust is increasing in 2022 from £3.50 to £4.00 per member; this is paid out of your Bookham u3a annual subscription
- So when looking at how your £14 annual subscription is spent and needing to allocate a proportion for monthly meetings, interest group start ups and committee costs, it was felt that something had to give as we did not want to increase the subscription; it would have been the easiest way forward but we appreciate that many other costs in your daily lives are increasing as society moves out of the pandemic
- Also by minimising paper printing we are contributing to 'saving the planet', all be it in a small way

Should you still want that paper feel of Senior Moments in your hands, then SM editor Maurice Baker will be providing guidance in the August edition to enable you to create your own A5 sized version.

Now looking forward to next month's meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, we will be finding out about a charity located quite close to us. Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Association is a registered charity which provides facilities to benefit disabled children and young adults by having regular contact with horses. They have been operating for over 30 years, giving rides to children and young adults with physical and learning disabilities in Surrey. Their riders include those with autism, Down's Syndrome, spina bifida and dyspraxia. Each week, with the assistance of their coaches and volunteers, their riders can enjoy the horse riding experience. This provides them with the chance to be independent, to feel a sense of achievement and it puts smiles on their faces! If proof were needed of the therapeutic effect of riding, they had one little boy who had never spoken before and whose first word was the name of his pony. Barry Tregaskis or one of his colleagues will be taking us through what its like to work with this charity from their stables at Wyvenhoe Equestrian Club.

To register for the 6<sup>th</sup> July meeting, please click on this link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpduuhpjwjGdcntioDJPLS5pBjvPOjLI-j>

The talk will be open on Zoom at 2:15pm for a 2:30pm start.

Until then, take care and best wishes,

*Chris*